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Applicant intends this response to be a complete response to the Examiner's 19 April 2006 Non-Final Office Action. Applicant has labeled the paragraphs in his response to correspond to the paragraph labeling in the Office Action for the convenience of the Examiner.

Related Applications

2. **Claim 46-62** stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Robinson (2002/0124785).

The Examiner contends as follows:

Robinson discloses the claimed subject matter including a deck apparatus for a vessel with layers to increase the resistance of the vessel to an attack by an explosive weapon (note the Abstract for example).

Applicant now understand the previous rejection. Applicant forgot to include an application is the chain of priority that would relate the present application back to the cited Robinson application. Applicant simply forgot to include USSN 10/341524 in the chain, which is a continuation of the cited Robinson publication. Applicant has amended the related application section to correct this problem. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection as clearly this application traces its roots back to the parent and application and the CIP application (2002/0124785).

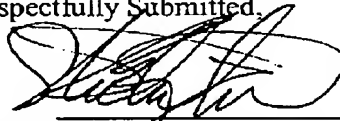
Applicant is submitting a petition to request an unintentional late priority claim and asks that the prosecution be suspended until the petition is granted or denied.

Having distinguished the present invention over the cited art and submitted a terminal disclaimer,

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the additional claim charges to Deposit Account No. 501518. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501518.

If you have any questions, please call me at 713.977.7000.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Strozier, Reg. No. 34,024

Date: **January 25, 2007**

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